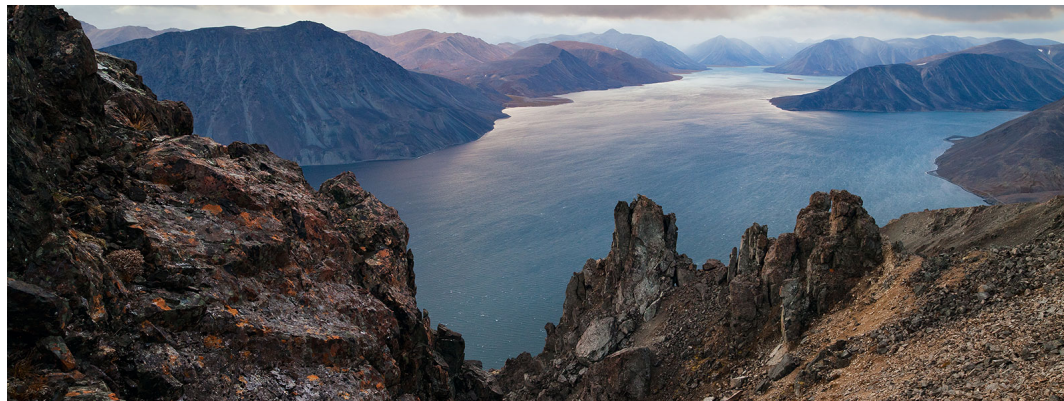


## THE ARCTIC - PONANT: FIRE & ICE REVERSE



### INTRODUCTION

**EARLY BIRDS ON SALE - Book and save up to 25% OFF\* Arctic 2021 voyages with PONANT.**

Embark on an incredible 17 day voyage that will take you through the heart of Arctic Alaska. On board Le Soleal, you will find the perfect blend of elegance and luxury to provide a unique and intimate expedition cruising experience. Cruise between the Russia and the United States along the Bering Strait to discover landscapes fused with a combination of ice, tundra and volcanoes. Experience the wonders of the Katami National Park as you get the chance to spot grizzly bears. Explore the unique ecosystems of Wrangle Island, the most biodiverse island in all the High Arctic. This is truly a unique voyage to some of the planet's most unique regions.

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1: Embarkation in Seward

A return flight from Seattle is included in your cruise price. Upon arrival you will be transferred from the airport to the pier. Embarkation is scheduled between 4 and 5pm with departure scheduled for 6pm. Seward is located on the Kenai peninsula, south of Anchorage. This bustling port, built for the fishing and shipbuilding industries, will show you just how vibrant it is, with its shops and galleries. The entrance gate for the sublime Kenai Fjords National Park, Seward nestles in the heart of very beautiful scenery, between glaciers, mountains and very rich marine life (whales, sea otters, orcas, seals).



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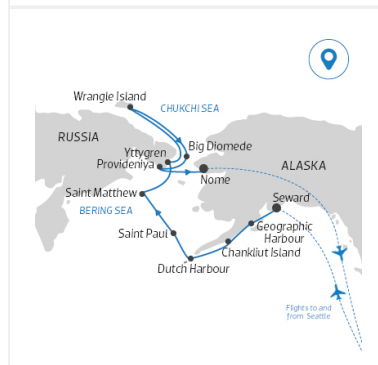
4/09/2021

#### DURATION

17 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Arctic, Russian Arctic



## THE ARCTIC - PONANT: FIRE & ICE REVERSE

### DAY 2: Geographic Harbor, Alaska

Here you are in the heart of Katmai National Park and Preserve. Here, the rocky cliffs are punctuated with white marks. These are the remains of ash deposits that accumulated following a volcanic eruption in the past. Board your Zodiac® and, a little further south, explore every part of Geographic Harbor and its tall cliffs covered in vegetation and plunging into the sea. Along the sandy beach, grizzly bears improvise hunting sessions, in search of fish and clams. In the thickets, these omnivores eat berries, roots and grasses. Brown bears are at home here and the presence of humans doesn't seem to disturb them. This makes for a fascinating and unforgettable show.



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### DAY 3: Cankliut Island, Alaska

Off the Alaska Peninsula hides a small gem: Chankliut. From mountainous terrain to flowery moors and valleys covered in sea lyme-grass, this island, which is part of the Aleutian archipelago, offers landscapes with a unique charm. During your walk around a lake, you will cross a sumptuous meadow where beautiful aconite and willowherb vie for attention. The more courageous will venture onward to the neighbouring valley and its ancient calderas to admire the splendour of the scenery. This totally uninhabited island bears no trace of any past settlement. Small, curious heads will catch your attention, however: crested puffins and horned puffins bask on the water near spotted seals.



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### DAY 4: Dutch Harbor, Unalaska

During your cruise, discover an exceptional site: Unalaska Island and its port, Dutch Harbor. Located between the Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea, on the Aleutian Islands, Dutch Harbor is the only deep water port in the archipelago. As for the island itself, it offers you unique landscapes: volcanic summits swept by the wind and surrounded by the sea, lush green valleys, sometimes covered with bright summer flowers, sometimes with deep winter snow... Unalaska is not only an island with astonishing nature and very varied wildlife, it is also rich in history, where ancient indigenous cultures and remains from World War II can be seen and their tales be told.



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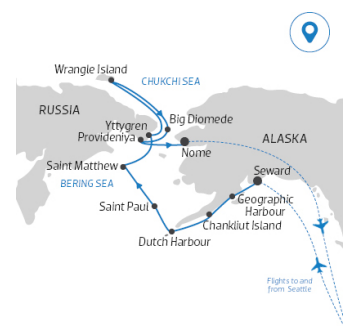
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## THE ARCTIC - PONANT: FIRE & ICE REVERSE

### DAY 5: Saint Paul Island, Pribilof Islands

Part of the Earth's History was written between Alaska and Russia. We invite you to discover a unique environment that seems to stretch out to infinity. Lost in the middle of the Bering Sea, the Pribilof archipelago is made up of four volcanic islands where nature has crafted exquisitely beautiful landscapes. Here, on the islands of Saint Paul and Saint George, you will find majestic volcanoes, lava deserts and crater lakes, offering travelers a magnificent vantage point from which to observe a fauna composed almost exclusively of fur seals. The archipelago is also renowned as a paradise for birds, especially on Saint Paul, as more than 240 different species of seabirds take flight from the top of its majestic cliff.



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### DAY 6: St Matthew Island

Saint Matthew island is right in the middle of the Bering Sea, between Siberia and Alaska. Classified as a National Wildlife Refuge by the United States, this island covered in wet tundra corresponds to the northern boundary of the polar bear's range during winter. It is home to many birds, including the McKay's bunting, an endemic species whose population is estimated at 6,000 individuals. We can also find Arctic foxes there. Although populated by the Aleut during prehistoric times Saint Matthew Island is uninhabited today.



NO IMAGE  
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### DAY 7: At Sea

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.



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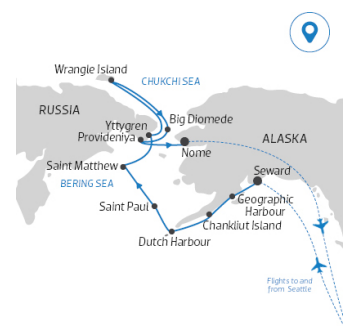
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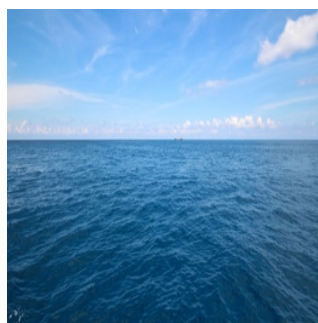
### DAY 9: Whale Bone Alley, Yttygran Island

Your ship nears the wild coast of Yttygran Island at the first light of dawn; discovered by Jean Malaurie in 1976, it is a holy place shrouded in mystery. On the silent beaches, bathed in a surreal light, lies Whale Bone Alley, the revered and sacred shamanic grounds of the Chukchi people. Along a 400 m stretch of beach, the Chukchi have carefully arranged hundreds of whale bones, skulls and jawbones in accordance with ancient rites and there they stand, proud and reaching for the astral sky. With each passing year a little more of our ancient history is lost, and this site bears valuable witness to humankind's eternal search for a harmonious co-existence with the Spirits and with Nature and the rituals we've employed along the way.



### DAY 10: At Sea

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.



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## THE ARCTIC - PONANT: FIRE & ICE REVERSE

### DAY 11: Wrangel Island Reserve

Imagine a natural island that is mostly mountainous and, for the rest of its landscapes, alternates between vast tundra plains and areas of great lakes, lagoons and cliffs. Welcome to Wrangel, the most important hotspot of Arctic biodiversity. Situated between the East Siberian Sea and the Chukchi Sea, the island was named after the Russian explorer Ferdinand von Wrangel. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the island is a rare, precious and very ancient ecosystem with unique vegetation, as well as an exceptional fauna: it is home to the majestic polar bear and the vast majority of the Russian Arctic's walrus population. The island also holds traces of the last mammoths and is home to several endemic species.



### DAY 15: Big Diomedé

From your Zodiac, discover Big Diomedé, between Siberia and Alaska. This island, measuring approximately 30 km<sup>2</sup> and located in the middle of the Bering Strait, is Russia's most easterly point. Although it was once inhabited by the Inuit, it is now home to just a handful of Russian soldiers on a military base. Just a few kilometres further east, on the other side of the International Date Line, lies Little Diomedé, an American island which Russia sold to the United States in 1867.



### DAY 16: Provideniya & At Sea toward Nome

Across the Bering Strait from Alaska, which it almost touches and can be glimpsed when the weather is fine, the town of Provideniya seems to keep a watchful eye over ships heading for the East Siberian Sea. Nestled against mountains with peaks of up to 2,000 m, Provideniya is the gateway to the Chukotka Peninsula, a polar region as yet unknown to the general public, with striking landscapes and a primitive beauty like no other.



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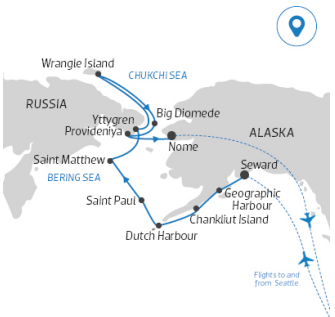
# THE ARCTIC - PONANT: FIRE & ICE REVERSE

## DAY 17: Disembarkation in Nome

Disembarkation is scheduled for approximately 7AM. Upon disembarkation you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight to Seattle. Located along the Bering Strait at the westernmost point of Alaska, Nome offers the rustic charm of a former gold-mining town, set in the middle of magnificent wilderness. As you weave in and out of the brightly coloured houses, you will discover the pioneering legacy that still marks local traditions. Fishing, reindeer rearing, sledge-racing... People here live from their manual labour. The surrounding plains provide stunning vantage points for observing Arctic fauna.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS	
Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
Inclusions	<p>Cabin accommodation on board Le Soleal  All meals whilst on board including snacks  All scheduled landings and excursions  Expedition jacket provided (yours to keep)  Pair of expedition boots for use during your voyage  Group transfer to/from pier  Guiding by experienced expedition leader and team  All port fees  All landing fees  Open bar (excluding premium brands)  Flight from Seattle to Seward on Day 1  Flight from Nome to Seattle on Day 17</p> <p><b>Exclusions</b>  Airtfares from disembarkation city  Visa fees (if applicable)  Travel insurance  Personal expenses, such as laundry, onboard communication (telephone calls, faxes and email service)  Gratuities for the crew  Pre or post cruise travel expenses  Optional activities, refer to optional activities section for details.</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details.

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## THE ARCTIC - PONANT: FIRE & ICE REVERSE

### Notes

Return charter flights from Seattle are included in your cruise cost. It is highly recommended you arrive in Seattle one day prior to commencement of your itinerary.

### Price Dependent upon

Departure date, season and availability.

## SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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